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TITLE: Manufacture of fire-resistant polyesters

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The title polyesters are manufactured without lowering mech. strength by AB copolymg. 1-10 mol% (based on total acid components) ester-forming functional group-containing unsatd. compds. to polyesters at ≤260° to intrinsic viscosity 0.25-0.48, then polycondensing with 0.7-1.0:1 (equivalent ratio, based on unsatd. bonds of the copolymd. unsatd. compds.) PHR1R2(O)n (R1, R2 = C1-20 alkyl, C6-20 aryl, C1-20 alkoxy, C6-20 aryloxy; R1R2 may be bonded to form a ring; n = 0, 1) at  $\leq 270^{\circ}$  to intrinsic viscosity  $\geq 0.5$ . Thus, a slurry of (1.6:1, mol ratio) ethylene glycol (I) and terephthalic acid was added to bis  $(\beta$ -hydroxyethyl) terephthalate and its oligomers and heated at 255°, then treated with (1:0.8, mol. ratio) maleic anhydride (II)-I mixture (II content is 2.5 mol% of total acid components) at 260° in the presence of GeO2 to give a polyester with intrinsic viscosity 0.45, which was treated with 2.0 mol% (based on total acid components) 9,10-dihydro-9-oxa-10-phosphophenanthrene-10oxide at  $260^{\circ}$  and 0.3 torr to give a fire-resistant polyester with intrinsic viscosity 0.65 and m.p. 250° showing good strength.